

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /078 W

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R 072147Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4744

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 5930

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PORG UN UR MX

SUBJECT: SOVIET POSITION ON ECHEVERRIA'S UN SYG CANDIDACY

REF: A) STATE 108402, B) MEXICO 5662 (NOTAL), C) MEXICO 2416

1. SOVIET LABOR LEADER VLADIMIR BOGARTIKOV REPEATED ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION HIS STATEMENT EXPRESSING SOVIET SUPPORT FOR SUBJECT CANDIDATE. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, HOWEVER, NO SOVIET EMBASSY OR OTHER OFFICIAL CONFIRMED THAT BOGARTIKOV STATEMENT REPRESENTED OFFICIAL POSITION.

2. SUBSEQUENTLY, AS REPORTED REFTEL B, REPORTER ASKED AMB JOVA ABOUT ALLEGED STATEMENT BY ECHEVERRIA THAT U.S. AND USSR WOULD VETO HIS UN SYG CANDIDACY. AMBASSADOR REPLIED INTER ALIA THAT HE WAS UNFAMILIAR WITH ECHEVERRIA STATEMENT AND EMBASSY HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY SUCH STATEMENT BEING MADE. LAST PUBLIC COMMENT ECHEVERRIA MADE ON SUBJECT, OF WHICH WE ARE AWARE, WAS ALMOST OFF-HAND RESPONSE TO A REPORTER LAST MARCH TO THE EFFECT THAT "GREAT POWERS" (UNNAMED) DID NOT WANT LATIN AMERICAN SYG.

3. FOLLOWING MAY DAY PARADE, PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA SHARPLY CRITICIZED MINORITY OF MARCHERS WHO USED CLENCHED FIST
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SALUTE, CHARACTERIZING THE GESTURE AS "FOREIGN" AND TYPICAL

OF COUNTRIES WHERE WORKERS HAD NO FREEDOM. HE SAID THAT MARCHERS UNDER REFERENCE THOUGHT THEY WERE COMMUNIST BUT, IN FACT, WERE FASCISTS AND REACTIONARIES. MEXICAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCM) LEADERS REACTED STRONGLY CITING CLENCHED FIST GESTURE AS INTERNATIONAL AND DENYING ECHEVERRIA'S ACCUSATIONS THAT SUBVERSIVE TWENTY-THIRD OF SEPTEMBER GROUP WAS "YOUTH WING" OF PCM. CONFIDANT OF FORMER PRESIDENT ALEMAN ON MAY 6 TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT, BECAUSE OF ECHEVERRIA'S COMMENTS ABOVE, RELATIONS BETWEEN ECHEVERRIA AND PCM APPROACHING "OPEN HOSTILITY". TO THE EXTENT SOVIETS ARE DISGRUNTLED BY ECHEVERRIA'S ATTACK ON THEIR PCM ADHERENTS IN MEXICO, THEY MAY BE LESS THAN ENTHUSIASTIC OVER SUBJECT CANDIDACY.

4. AS DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL, POLISH AMBASSADOR TOLD AMB JOVA IN FEBRUARY (REFTEL C) THAT HIS GOVERNMENT OPPOSED ECHEVERRIA'S CANDIDACY STRONGLY.
JOVA

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